

JULY 1950 • Vol. 8 • No. 7

*Capitol*  
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

**NEWS**



**MIDSUMMER GIRLIE ISSUE**





## It Must Be The Humidity!!!

An all-girlie band fronted by the most gorgeous gal this side of Ava Gardner will, in the near future, become one of the nation's topflight orks. . . . The nitery tax will be snipped in half before 1950 ends, and therefore help increase biz and provide more work for musicians. . . . Frank Sinatra will make a comeback in TV despite his current popularity sag. . . . The Bing Crobys will NOT separate, this year or any other. . . . A tune which will top the Hit Parade next winter will have the word "Starlight" in its title. . . . Facts? Maybe, maybe not. But it's a portion of the dead-serious predicting that Gigi Nash, whose visions carry a lot of weight in and around Hollywood, has been making of late.

Nash wasn't much help to this column, though. He just blinked when asked if the Cards and Tigers, our February choices, would play in the World Series.

\* \* \*

Said to be the only living Harvard-educated jazz drummer, Art Little, Jr., is forming a rather unorthodox Dixieland band out Beverly Hills way. All his sidemen wear white ties and tails; all have college degrees. And what stamps a crew like that as Dixieland? "Our music," Little fires back, "is from SOUTH Boston."

\* \* \*

The Dixie renaissance has assumed really frightful proportions. Californians, out on the town, are never quite sure these nights what they'll encounter up on the bandstand. To date, there are firemen, policemen, clowns, a crew wearing baseball uniforms, another attired, but immaculately, in starched, white doctor's jackets, and we've heard of yet another outfit made up of street cleaners—a "sanitation band" replete with long brooms, refuse cans and sharp-pointed sticks amid the banjo, tuba and slide trombone chairs.

And once we complained about pink elephants!

\* \* \*

Cap News joins in wishing the King, Louis Armstrong, the happiest and most prosperous of all his birthdays this July 4. He will hit 50. . . . Glenn E. Wallich, back from a trek to Europe, is astounded with the popularity of American bands and singers abroad. And, he reports, American-made records outsell European platters in five of the countries he visited. . . . Although a lot of music lovers here never did dig that "Innovations" album of Stan Kenton's band, the Hot Club of Tokyo gave it quite a rave review in its current magazine. . . . And in answer to all those requests, Cap's "History of Jazz" album series will be available on both 33 1/3 long-playing and 45 r. p. m. discs shortly. And they'll sound even better than they did on shellac.

CAPITOL NEWS

CAPITOL NEWS

PAGE 3

# MacRae Primed As Gershwin Soloist

## Lucille Norman To Share Bowl Honor

(Photo On Page 8)

The 900th event in the regular seasons of Hollywood Bowl's famed "Symphonies Under the Stars" since the Bowl was opened in 1922 will have Gordon MacRae and Lucille Norman as co-stars July 15 at the annual George Gershwin program.

### Carmen Dragon On Podium

MacRae, now slaving at Warner Brothers in "The West Point Story," recently teamed with Miss Norman for two record albums of

For lineup of longhairs at Bowl this summer, see detailed story on Page 7.

Broadway show music. He also has featured the late Gershwin's output on his regular "Railroad Hour" airshows.

The composer's "Rhapsody in Blue" will be performed the same night with Carmen Dragon, of radio and film fame, conducting the symphony ork inside the huge shell. Piano soloist will be Marco Wolf, Jr.

### 40 Dancing Girls, Too

"Gershwin night" at the Bowl has become an annual event. This month, in offering it for the sixth straight year, the Bowl's officials also will offer 40 dancing "Fanchonettes," and the production will be supervised by Fanchon and Marco.

It's a big thing for young MacRae, who came to the west coast unknown and broke just a few years back. In racking up successes in films, on records, on radio and now on the concert stage, the confident New Yorker has enjoyed about as rapid a rise to fame as anybody since Sinatra. He will gross in excess of \$300,000 this year.



PEGGY LEE, home in Hollywood again after a long, long tour which kept her bags packed for many months, hopped right back out again in late June to be featured at the New York Paramount Theater. From July 28 through Aug. 10 she also will work the Chicago Theater in Chicago. Dave Barbour's music accompanies Peg in both houses; in August she and Dave hope to return home and remain in California through the fall months.

## Kenton Marks Time at Balboa; His Dance Band Is 'Temporary'

With his 1951 tour, which will start about Jan. 15, already set up and bookings 90 per cent completed, Stan Kenton astounded his fans in late June when he abruptly scooted out of "retirement" with a new 20-piece dance band and opened at the Rendezvous Ballroom in Balboa, Calif. Kenton's new crew, which Stan says is "merely temporary," has no string section, but features most of the big name sidemen who performed on Stan's recent "Innovations" tour.

Stan is playing his old book, things like "Eager Beaver," "Tampico," "Opus in Pastels" and "Harlem Folk Dance," and all in strict tempo. His band will perform every weekend at Balboa through July and August, winding up Labor Day. Then Stan will open his new music school in Hollywood with several of his sidemen on the faculty. In this way, he can keep his musicians working all summer and fall before taking out his '51 edition of "Innovations" next January. He also can compose and rehearse new material for the tour.



**HOT SAT.**  
Tied  
PRICES: \$1.20

TAKING OFF from the Kenton krew again to try her wings as a single, June Christy is working California niteries with a date at the swank Mocambo coming up starting Aug. 8 at \$750 a week. Her singing style is described, on Page 11, as "distinctive, urgent . . . sounds like an inspired newsboy, mortally wounded."





DICK HAYMES

In Ed Hutshing's Column  
In 'Hollywood Reporter'

"It's up to the top names, the top stars of the music world, to correct the mistakes made by music publishers the last few years and offer the public an opportunity to hear good songs again. Most of the fans look up to the big names for leadership in the music field. These stars can set an example by singing only what is the best. There is still a wide variety of music with every possible type of song. But the good taste of the stars, who have or should have a sound background, can be extended to the public and bring back the level of musical taste to what it once was."

## THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Next to the almighty dollar (American style), our most popular European export is jazz, according to a recent survey. In fact, American jazz is becoming so popular behind the Iron Curtain that Communists are trying to stamp it out as a pernicious influence. In Prague it costs a dollar to sit in on a session of Duke Ellington recordings, 60 cents for Louis Armstrong and only 30 cents to hear the Russian composer, Dimitri Shostakovich."

STAN KENTON

In the L. A. Mirror

"So many collegiate music departments regard jazz as honky-tonk harmony. Pure jazz requires highly skilled and highly technical performers. Historically, jazz, as the music of today, may be more important than the music of yesterday. Jazz is the sole musical art form that can be called American, yet our music instructors treat it with disrespect. It's a pathetic situation."

## Lamare, Reyes, Carpenter Orks All In One Pic

How to make motion picture musicals cheap, featuring bands which are nationally noted, is one problem you can get solved in a hurry at Lippert Productions in Hollywood.

Nappy Lamare's *Strawhat Seven*, which has been playing nightly at the mighty Palladium ballroom and doing a sock TV show over Paramount's KTLA telelanes; Ike Carpenter, pianist and leader of a rising Ellington-styled ork, and Chuy Reyes, whose Latin-American combo is one of the best in the entire west, are all featured in "Holiday Rhythm." It's a 60-minute feature film with Mary Beth Hughes' and Dave Street in leading roles—and the entire pic was made, the studio reports, for \$45,000.

"Holiday Rhythm" employs 16 sets. No original music was written, or leased, for the film. Public domain melodies abound. Thus no royalties have to be paid to music publishers. And for the first time in cinema history the same orchestra—in this case, Carpenter's gang—is not only seen in the film but also handled the background scoring in its entirety.

All of which indicates that "Holiday Rhythm" may be the cheapest full-length (not a short subject) musical ever to be made in Hollywood. How good, how entertaining it will be, isn't known yet. It took only three days to shoot the entire deal.

### 'Mister' Pic Rolls

Betty Grable, back from New York, and Dan Dailey, Danny Thomas, Frank Fontaine and Benay Venuta are stars of 20th-Fox's film version of the stage musical, "Call Me Mister," which went into production in late June. Lloyd Bacon is the director.



NEW "ROMANTIC" song duo, who recorded together for Capitol last month in New York comprises Nat "King" Cole and his wife, Marie, who as Marie Ellington was a featured oriole with Duke Ellington's ork long before she and Nat were betrothed. This shot, by Ray Levitt, was made while the Coles sliced biscuits into a hot mike.

### Le Jazz Hot!

The newly organized Southern California Hot Jazz Society will meet again July 28 at Echo Park Recreation Center in Los Angeles with Floyd Levin, prexy, presiding. The group comprises about 100 members and membership is open to everyone interested in hot records. Last month, Albert Nicholas, famed clarinetist, was honored guest.

## Grove Grabs Clark Dennis

Clark Dennis carves another notch in his record of top-money bookings this month when he opens at the Coconut Grove of the Los Angeles Hotel Ambassador on July 4. The tenor will be featured two weeks in the Grove's nightly shows.

Already on the bandstand there is the orchestra of Skinnay Ennis, which returned in June from a run at the Hotel Roosevelt in New Orleans. Ennis, his breathless vocals and soft dance music will be held over through Dennis' engagement.

## Mocambo Books King Cole Trio

With his biscuit of "Mona Lisa" spinning merrily to a sizzling sales figure which will top anything he and his Trio have done in two years, Nat (King) Cole this month will play a string of dates in Indiana, Ohio and Illinois, including the July 13-19 week at the Cincinnati RKO-Albee Theater, before pointing west and returning, in late July, to Hollywood. Cole is booked for the Mocambo from July 25 to Aug. 7. It is probably the plushiest night spot west of New York City.

### Carter Gets Set; Cavanaugh Returns

Benny Carter took his small combo into the Tack Room, in Glendale, long a hangout for Dixielanders, in June. And on June 29, after a long road trip, Page Cavanaugh's Trio also returned to Southern California, opening at the Encore for an indefinite stay. Cavanaugh plays piano. His group is styled in a Nat Cole groove.



EZIO PINZA is the Mister Big of Hollywood these days, working at MGM opposite Lana Turner, no less, in "Mr. Imperium." But a few years back—before the fabulous "South Pacific" smash was ever conceived—Hollywood couldn't see Pinza for sour apples and he got the brush-off.

Time changes everything.

Now at the Fairmont in San Francisco, young Mel Torme sweeps back into Hollywood and opens, on July 11 for two weeks, at the Mocambo. MGM, meanwhile, will release "Duchess of Idaho," in which Torme plays a bellhop.

Home again, too, is Nellie Lutcher, who opened at the Oasis in Los Angeles June 23. After closing there July 6 Nel whips up to the Palomar in Vancouver, to be followed by personal appearances in Seattle and Portland.

Monica Lewis, chirp, signed a new MGM acting-singing contract.

Jan Garber's band landed the Hotel Statler Cafe Rouge job, New York, starting Aug. 10 for six weeks.

George Shearing and his combo due to open at the L. A. Oasis July 21. Group also is booked for a return date in September.

Red Callender, bassist, roared back from Hawaii and joined Vido Musso's combo at the L. A. York Club. Don Dennis is on trumpet, Bobby White, drums; Bob Harrington, piano.

New male singer with Lionel Hampton's crew is Jimmy Scott.



**HOPPING EAST** on his customary summer tour with his band, Les Brown and his canary, Lucy Ann Polk, ponder events looming ahead. With Bob Hope definitely changing radio sponsors next fall, Les's radio plans also are in doubt. The Brown Bombers just closed at the Hollywood Palladium.

Wingy Manone is working with one of the finest bands of his long career on the west coast, Albert Nicholas blowing the clarinet and Don Owens at the piano. Wingston alternates, these nights, between Hollywood and San Francisco and seems to eat regularly in both places.



## Capitol Western Hits

'I'LL SAIL MY SHIP ALONE'  
Ramblin' Jimmie Dolan

'MY HOBBY'—Tennessee Ernie

'BIRMINGHAM BOUNCE'—Tex Williams

'TRUE BLUE PAPA'—Leon Chappel

'TAKE A LOOK AT THIS BROKEN  
HEART OF MINE'—Hank Thompson

'UNDER THE ANHEUSER BUSH'  
Jimmy Wakely

'YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE'—Jimmie Davis

'CANE BOTTOM CHAIR'—Merle Travis

'SUGAR BABY'—Eddie Kirk

'SLEEPY EYED JOHN'—Ole Rasmussen

Available on either 78 or 45 rpm

## Pee-Wee Amused By Big Dixie Fad He Launched

"If we have helped put good musicians back to work, and helped get the people dancing again, then our band is happy."

That's the reaction of Pee-Wee Hunt, Dixieland leader and vet trombone slide artist, to the astounding, world-wide revival of Dixieland jazz of 1950. It was Hunt's Capitol cutting of "12th Street Rag" a couple of years ago that unquestionably bopped bop, and started a new cycle of happy, danceable, simple, melodic music. Hunt's version of "Rag" by now has sold nearly 2,000,000 records. It proved to be the all-time biggest-selling phono record ever marketed in England. It is still selling, all over the world.

Hunt, whose band—with Stan Kenton's Red Dorris featured on clarinet instead of the hot tenor he played with Kenton—has been playing nightly for many weeks at the Garden of Allah in Seal Beach, a few minutes from Los Angeles, is amused by the stir he created. "Dixie had to come back," he says. "It never went away, really. We just popped with the right thing at the right time."

Pee-Wee is an Ohioan. For two decades he was the star of Glen Gray's Casa Loma band. Since the war ended, he's been leading his own crack little Dixie crew. Jazz critics, because of his financial success, don't give him much house. But millions of paying customers do. He's happy with things the way they are. And a hundred other Dixie combos are now trying to play Pee-Wee's way!



HE'S THE man who started it all—the current Dixieland revival. Ignored by the critics, Pee-Wee Hunt, his slide trom and his Dixie-cats sold nearly 2 million copies of "12th Street Rag" in less than two years. And all of his records, since, have proved brisk sellers. Now everybody's trying to do it Pee-Wee's way.

## Big Names Flock To Hollywood Bowl In July

With the Stan Kenton Hollywood Bowl concert now history, the classical season will open there on July 7. Kenton drew more than 14,000 to his June 3 presentation and not more than three of the strictly longhair events following Kenton will pull as well.

### Famed Artists Coming

From its humble beginning in 1922, Hollywood Bowl has become world famous. More than 7,000,000 persons have attended concerts and have witnessed musical spectacles and festivals in the Bowl, the world's largest natural amphitheater.

The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra for more than a quarter century of the Bowl's history has been composed largely of the personnel of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. The ensemble has been conducted by 140 conductors from 20 different countries and the list of soloists reads like a who's who of music.

The 29th season of summer concerts will open with a per-

formance of Puccini's opera, "La Boheme," with Artur Rodzinski conducting and with Metropolitan Opera Tenor Richard Tucker in the role of Rudolfo. The opera, produced for the Bowl Association by James A. Doolittle, will have three performances: July 7, 8 and 11.

### Variety Planned

General Manager Karl Wecker said the 1950 season will be the most varied in the history of the Bowl, "but the tradition of devoting the major portion of the programs to serious music will be maintained."

Opera, light opera, ballet, prominent vocal and instrumental soloists and a series of popular programs including a specially

arranged Gershwin program have been planned.

Symphony conductors thus far engaged for the eight-week season are Serge Koussevitzky, Artur Rodzinski and Alfred Wallenstein. For 25 years Koussevitzky was conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He made his western debut last summer in Hollywood Bowl. He will close his 1950 visit with a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with soloists and large chorus.

### Artur In From Cuba

Rodzinsky has been heard many times in the Bowl and for four seasons was conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra before going east to become music head of the Cleveland Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic Symphony. He now is music director of the Havana Symphony Orchestra in Havana, Cuba.





***...and the livin' is easy***



Featured together on many a broadcast of "The Railroad Hour" over NBC's potent airplanes, Lucille Norman and Gordon MacRae will team again as co-stars, July 15, in Hollywood Bowl at the sixth annual George Gershwin concert. They've also just recorded sparkling new "Vagabond King" and "New Moon" albums for Capitol.

July, too, means vacation time. But for Jo Stafford it's just a laugh. She's so busy singing on two network shows that she won't get any farther than Sunset and Vine this month—that alarm clock won't stop.

Girls? The two posed perkily with Harry James are Gloria DeHaven and June Haver, both of whom chirped with dance bands before hitting the Big Time in Hollywood movies. James, Gloria and June are all featured in 20th-Fox's "I'll Get By" musical, and this is one of the cooler scenes from the picture.

Tall, leggy, attractive Patricia Wymore is still another lucious lass who is fast approaching celluloid stardom. Here, she's pictured in "Tea For Two" which the brothers Warner have just completed. Oh well, it can't stick around 100 forever. And it's better than frostbite!





## • FOLK MUSIC •

# Tex Straying Far; He'll Hit Canada Soon

By BEEP ROBERTS

Tex Ritter will stray a "fur piece" from his own beloved Lone Star state this month when he and his hoss White Flash, stalk into Canada on a personal appearance tour which Ritter has planned for years. Opening on July 1 at Brantford, Ont., Tex will swing through Ontario with the famous singing Skyline Boys and Dorothy Fay, who has played the role of beautiful heroine in countless western movies.

Ritter, a real Texan who once attended the state university at Austin, will find a lot of his newest records in the jukes as he tours. His latest Capitol coupling pairs "Boiled Crawfish" with "I've Got Five Dollars."

## Santa Monica Preparing!

Les Gotcher is back in California following his tour of Square Dance festivals in Texas. San Antonio celebrated three days in his honor as Capitol's champion caller. July 8th brings birthday greetings to Les as he celebrates by formulating Square Dance plans for the world's biggest jubilee in Santa Monica. This is the Diamond Jubilee Festival, and Dr.



JOE ALLISON'S first records, on the Cap label, have just been released nationally. He's prominent all over the South for his radio shots over Nashville's WMAK; Tex Ritter discovered him back in '45 in San Antonio and got Joe started as a western singer. Allison is a youngster. He was born in Texas in 1924.

Lloyd Shaw (who is in his sixties, no less) is being flown from Colorado Springs to attend. Dr. Shaw is known as the Dean of Western Dancing and has been teaching for 35 years. The city of Santa Monica is repaving its streets under the supervision of Square Dance experts expressly for the occasion! Gov. Earl Warren of California will also attend, and 980 sets have been scheduled to be on the floor at one time; arrangements have been completed to accommodate 10,000 spectators. Champion callers and dancers from all sections of the country will participate.

Don't forget Tex Williams' new Sunday broadcast on NBC, coast to coast. Each week Tex and his Western Caravan salute three disc jockeys somewhere in the U. S. A. Tex is also appearing in the new Universal picture, "Tales of the West" which also features Smokey Rogers and Deuce Spriggins. Incidentally, "Birmingham Bounce" has received quite a tribute in England. Tex recorded a salute to the people of Birmingham, Eng., which is being aired the first of this month via Radio Luxembourg. Jo Stafford, in her weekly overseas program, also featured the tune and spotlighted the grand job Tex was doing.

## Wakely Back From N. Y.

Jimmy Wakely is back from New York to spend a quiet 48 hours of July with his family at his ranch in North Hollywood.

Eddie (Sugar Baby) Kirk starts a tour July 1 working in Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, and surrounding territories. Sponsored by Al Turner and Sportatorium, Eddie plans to shake hands with record dealers and disc jockeys in each town.

## Stone Big On TV

Cliffie Stone's holiday plans call for outdoor park entertainment at "Cowboy Park" in Newhall, Cal. Over 3,500 people will turn out to enjoy Cliffie and his Home-town Jamboree gang. Cliffie's TV contract was picked up this month for a 26-week renewal. Tennessee Ernie is back from a two-month road tour and will star on Cliffie's TV weekly Westinghouse winner.

# How a Longhair Digs Kenton; Stan Is A 'Passionate Preacher'

Ever wonder how a serious, unprejudiced critic of classical music interprets modern jazz, say Stan Kenton's?

Margaret Harford of the Hollywood Citizen-News, admittedly one of the best of the longhaired writers west of Chicago, sat through the final concert of Kenton's "Innovations" in Hollywood Bowl the night of June 3 and then reviewed the spectacle like this:

"Stan Kenton, a passionate preacher for a musical doctrine he calls 'progressive jazz,' probably got more listeners assembled in one spot Saturday night than any other crusader here since Evangelist Billy Graham left town.

"If the Kenton converts didn't fill Hollywood Bowl, they occupied about three-fourths of the available seats, a showing that understandably gave us renegade longhairs pause.

"Kenton delivered the sermon in a package titled 'Innovations in Modern Music for 1950,' and all of it was pretty exhilarating stuff although not so bright-penny new as the maestro would have you believe.

"As a crusader in modern music, Kenton is trailing some elder statesmen in the field—Stravinsky, Schoenberg or Satie for instance—to whom Kenton and his arranging staff owe considerable and obvious allegiance.

"Nevertheless, Kenton has the burning sincerity of the religious convert who has finally seen the light. His avowed purpose is to promote 'a better grade of jazz' and he almost has me convinced he is doing it.

"From the start of his professional career, Bandleader Kenton has been unhappy on the popcorn podium. Brainy and undoubtedly needed by some sharp stabs of idealistic fervor, he was bound to feel the call of the concert hall. The result — since 1948, people have quit dancing to Kenton's music and are now respectfully listening to it. The cognoscenti, who last year greeted the addition to strings to Kenton's sacrosanct jazz precincts with something louder than a whimper, apparently have accepted the inevitable. They still idolize the maestro, although Saturday some of the stubborn old guard kept yelling for 'Tampico,' a hangover from Kenton's Balboa Beach days which now seems to be a pariah in the repertoire.

"Kenton surrounds his admirable project of bettering jazz with some scientific stage props that need to be cut down to size. The program notes are full of the analytical jargon of a musician who has given psychiatry some study and emerged a little bug-eyed in the process. Observes the maestro gravely: 'No music written 100 years ago can honestly satisfy our emotional demands today... or in modern music, any attempt at explanation should only be made by competent psychiatry as they alone are closest to understanding the functions of our inner selves.'

"Psychiatry notwithstanding, the calibre of the solo work in Kenton's orchestra would turn any conductor green—that being, as the phychiatrists will tell you, the color of envy. Maynard Ferguson is a sensational trumpeter and Gregory Bemko, a cellist worth hearing anytime. Ditto for Lau-



MEET MAYNARD, of the Ferguson family of Canada, who is stepping out as a trumpet-tooting bandleader this month following a stint with Stan Kenton. He's a high-note artist. Fergy's new band has been rehearsing in Hollywood.

## Hampton's Gang Due At L. A. Theater

Lionel Hampton's flying ork, after a June 25 stand at Wrigley Field, returns to Los Angeles this month to play the July 12-17 week at the Million Dollar Theater. Hamp's crew also plays another one-nighter Aug. 3 in L. A. They'll play the July 24 week at the Golden Gate in San Francisco.

rindo Almeida, guitarist, Milt Bernhart's trombone and Art Pepper's alto saxophone.

"June Christy, formerly the band's vocalist, returned to show why she is now a top vocal star on her own. She has a distinctive, urgent style and a throaty contralto that sounds like an inspired newsboy, mortally wounded."

you'll save money for extra records with...

# Fidelitone

RCA 45 RPM SYSTEM NEEDLE REPLACEMENT KIT

Produced By  
PERMO, Incorporated  
Chicago 26





KOLODIN  
SMITH  
EWEN



SPICER  
BROWN  
LOMAX

Swinging into the dog days of midsummer, America's publishers this month are making available a record number of books on music, books which are of a uniform high caliber and directed, shrewdly, to all tastes.

Outstanding in the July lists is the third edition of Irving Kolodin's "The New Guide to Recorded Music," a tome not designed for the novice collector of classical music, but rather, for those who know music, and know, precisely what they want in records.

Kolodin is well-equipped to author such an ambitious manuscript. His copy in the old New York "Sun" attracted international attention; his current contributions to the "Saturday Review of Literature" are possibly among the two or three best music analyses to be read anywhere. Kolodin, moreover, is no Ivory Tower critic. His knowledge and appreciation of jazz is vast and authoritative—he once was responsible for a Count Basie piano album which even now—11 years later—remains a landmark in hot music.

"The New Guide" lists thousands of records, and Kolodin's comments—and he's not humorless—while arbitrary, are intelligent and rarely controversial. It's a shame he couldn't include jazz. Published by Doubleday & Co., 524 pages, \$4.

Somewhat in a similar vein—groove?—Moses Smith's smaller, less-comprehensive and not so ambitious "Selective Record Guide" is better-suited to the newer collectors of classical records. Mr. Smith, an eastern critic of great reputation is not so up-to-date as Kolodin and he frequently emphasizes certain long-

hair discs carrying the label of a major waxworks with which he has been employed. But his three lists of records, and comments, are logical enough and he writes with an easy style. Published by The Macmillan Co., 300 pages, \$4.50.

Still on a classical riff, the prolific David Ewen has assembled a potful of articles about, and by, 31 contemporary composers in a magnificently-produced book, "The Book of Modern Composers." This is the second edition, with Walter Piston and Benjamin Britten added to the 29 modern masters previously covered. Here are thousands of facts, pertinent and slightly less so. Did you know, for example, that the inspirations for the music of Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco are, in his own words, "my homeplace (Florence and Tuscany), the Bible and Shakspeare?"

This fat, heavy, volume with the handsome typography and lush paper stock can keep a music fan, or a musician, up for several nights. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, 586 pages, \$6.

All of this is heavy stuff. Want something with a sock music background that involves nothing less than murder? Bart Spicer's "Blues For the Prince" tells an exciting story; a famous jazzman, found kayoed permanently in his palatial home—how? why? Private Eye Carney Wilde unravels the mystery. It's cool, suspenseful reading. But gee, Spicer, don't you collect anything but pre-1930 hot platters? Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., 249 pages, \$2.50.

Far away, to the ultimate in academic research and philosophy, is Prof. Calvin S. Brown's erudite volume, "Music and Literature," a general study of the relationship between the two.

Brown, a learned English prof at the University of Georgia, writes 'way up on Cloud 79, combining views on popular and obscure poetry and literature with classical music—European classical music. Digesting this requires a Theaurus, more patience than a St. Loo Browns stockholder and a small crystal ball. But other university faculty members will undoubtedly regard the book as right simple stuff. Published by the University of Georgia Press, 271 pages, \$4.50.

Back on terra firma—New York City, specifically—"The Story of Irving Berlin" by David Ewen is a short, sketchy summary of the life and career of a little man who has become one of the world's most successful craftsmen. Ewen churns it out tabloid style, as if meeting an impossible deadline. The list of available Berlin songs on records, for example, is disarmingly incomplete and unsatisfactory. But for those who would like to know more about the Russian-born writer of "White Christmas" and a hundred other big hits, "TSOIB" stands as an ideal package. Published by Holt, 170 pages, \$3.

A pity that space is short in saving Alan Lomax's "Mister Jelly Roll" for the end, one can't very well devote the hundreds of words of praise the book deserves. This is the story of old Ferd "Jelly Roll" Morton, who did more for jazz than jazz did for him. Lomax's task was difficult but he has produced a tidy, definitive book that makes history in the field of jazz literature. Old Jelly was a great musician, a rare idealist, and his story makes fascinating reading. For most folks this may be the best book of the entire batch. Published by Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 318 pages, \$3.50.

—Summaries by Dave Dexter, Jr.



CALIFORNIA will be seeing a batch of big name singers shortly, with the opening of the Greek Theater in Los Angeles' Griffith Park. First show skedded is "Miss Liberty," with music and lyrics by Irving Berlin. Opening night is July 3 and Kenny Baker and Mary McCarty will be featured.

"Finian's Rainbow" is the second show July 17 with David Wayne in his original role as the leprechaun, and Ella Logan will do a repeat of her role of Sharon.

"Rio Rita" will be revived as the third event July 31 with Marina Koshetz, Pinky Lee and John Raft in the top roles.

Brian Sullivan will don his Red Shadow robes for "The Desert Song" Aug. 14. Slinking across the desert the same evening will be comic Sterling Holloway and songbird Helena Bliss.

The last nugget of the season will be Gertrude Niesen's brassy contribution in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" opening Aug. 28.

The city attorney's office of Los Angeles dismissed battery charges lodged a couple of months back against Billy Eckstine, who was charged with spitting on Mrs. Eleanor Spear, 22, in an L. A. night club. Witnesses absolved Eckstine of the charge.

Frances Langford and Jon Hall have signed a contract with Sam Katzman, Columbia Studio producer, to do a series of films over the next five years, with Hall to star in the first picture, "Hurricane Island."

Frankie Laine and his bride, Nan Grey of the movies, reaped big publicity over their marriage in California June 15. Then they took off for South America. Frankie doesn't have to sing for a living again until July 21 when



ELLA FITZGERALD, during her recent visit in Hollywood, teamed with Bob Crosby for a double-header interview with zany Steve Allen on KNX-CBS. Allen, a pianist of sorts, now has his own Sunday network show. Crosby now is out playing theaters. And Ella has long since returned to eastern night clubs.

## Connee Boswell Hits Hollywood

Connee Boswell, closing her run at the Desert Inn at Las Vegas, hopped to Hollywood in June and made a musical short at U-I before she could get her bags unpacked. Also featured with Connee, who was once the solo voice with the Boswell Sisters, was Les Brown's band. With Will Cowan producing and directing, others who will appear in the featurette include the Moon Mists, vocal group; Ted and Phyllis Rodriguez, dancers; and the Dale Sisters.

he opens at Hollywood's Ciro's following his honeymoon.

Frank Sinatra has spent most of the summer fishing for a new radio sponsor and also, a new film contract. He's no longer employed by MGM.

Vic Damone, winding his run at the N. Y. Waldorf-Astoria with Guy Lombardo, is checking in this month at MGM for his first screen role. Joe Pasternak will handle him on the Lion's lot.

## 'The Body' Will Be Filmed With Martin & Lewis

Cutting short their New York theater and bistro appearances, the team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis flew back to Hollywood in late June. On July 5, at Motion Picture Center in Hollywood, they'll report to Director Hal Walker for the start of their next—third—feature motion picture.

The title is "At War With the Army" and none other than luscious Marie McDonald will play the romantic interest to Martin. Dean's singing talents led him to success in celluloid; his records also are in demand. Lewis, zanier of the two, probably will have Julie Bishop opposite him.

Original songs for "At War With the Army" have been composed by Mack David and Jerry Livingstone, old-timers both, who were responsible for "Mairzy Doates" and dozens of other hits.

Dick Stabile, musical director for the Martin and Lewis duo, returned to the west coast with them and will assist the team in the picture. In August, Dean and Jerry will resume their p. a.'s.

## Gray's Ork To Bow July 25

Due to replace the current Russ Morgan at the Palladium on July 25 will be the new band of Jerry Gray, one-time arranger for Artie Shaw and Glenn Miller, who has been leading radio studio crews for several years in Hollywood.

Gray's music is styled a la Miller. His band will be a strictly pickup crew of Los Angeles sidemen, Gray never having worked dance jobs before.

Frankie Carle and Eddy Howard and their orks also are booked for the Palladium later this fall.





SKINNAY ENNIS: Coconut Grove.  
 RED NICHOLS: Sardi's.  
 CAVANAUGH'S COPS: The Casino,  
 Catalina Island.  
 RUSS MORGAN: Palladium.  
 PAUL NEIGHBORS: Hotel Biltmore.  
 VIDO MUSSO: York Club.  
 CLYDE HURLEY: Hangover.  
 KID ORY: Royal Room.  
 BEN POLLACK: Beverly Cavern.  
 DOC RANDO: Club 47.  
 JERRY WALD: Studio Club.  
 JERRY GRAY: Palladium, opening  
 July 25.  
 TED VESELY: Tom-Tom Cafe.  
 NICK BREWSTER: Cafe Italia.  
 ABBEY BROWNE: Charley Foy's.  
 ARTHUR VAN: Colonial Ballroom.  
 BUDDY WORTH: Stadium Club.  
 JESS STACY: The Lark Club.  
 MARTHA DAVIS: Surf Club.  
 FIREHOUSE FIVE PLUS TWO: Mocambo  
 on Mondays.

## MEET THE JOCKEY!

ALTHOUGH HE's been in radio less than three years, Hy Davis of WJXN in Jackson, Miss., is one



of the most prominent platter jocks in the South, airing five hours every day and embracing both pop and hill-

billy music. Originally from Duluth, Hy also writes song lyrics—who doesn't these days?—and he depends on his own personality for audiences rather than requests. Before joining WJXN, Davis went to a radio school in Memphis.

## Doris Day Joins 'West Point' Cast

Joining Jim Cagney, Gordon MacRae, Virginia Mayo and others for important roles in "The West Point Story," a musical now shooting at Warner Brothers, is Doris Day. Roy Del Ruth is directing it.



ALWAYS PITCHING, Jimmie Davis, Merle Travis, Eddie Kirk and Jimmie Dolan were recently snapped in Palm Springs, Cal., on a holiday trip which turned into a real all-western singin' clambake. The four stars are all to be featured in the September issue of "Movie Thrills" magazine.

## Wrestlers Bow To Blues Bawlers In California

Gene Norman and Frank Bull, in making plans for their first annual "Blues and Rhythm Jubilee" on July 16—a Sunday—have pushed out the professional wrestlers who ordinarily hold forth at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. In place of the grunt and groaners, a stage filled with blues singers will be on tap, and Norman advises that "no holds will be barred."

Dinah Washington, who just closed a run at the Oasis; Jim Witherspoon who has sung blues in India and Egypt; Roy Milton, Roy Hawkins, Lillian Greenwood, Pee-Wee Crayton, Tiny Webb and Ellis Walsh are already signed for the bash, first of its kind ever to be held anywhere. The Olympic Aud., moreover, is rarely used for musical programs. But the two disc-jocks, both heard over KFI, believe it is made to order for the blues bash. The way they'll have it arranged, more than 7,000 fans can be accommodated comfortably.

The rasslers will return after the blues shouters wind up their work.

## Capitol Hits

'BLIND DATE' - HOME COOKIN' - Whiting - Hope

'MONA LISA' - Nat 'King' Cole

'NOLA' - 'JEALOUS' - Les Paul

'SIMPLE MELODY' - Jo Stafford

'SENTIMENTAL ME' - Ray Anthony

'SAM'S SONG' - 'IVORY RAG' - Joe Fingers Carr

'BONAPARTE'S RETREAT' - Kay Starr

'I LOVE YOU BECAUSE' - Jan Garber

'HOOP-DEE-DOO' - Kay Starr

'LET'S GO TO CHURCH' - Whiting Wakely  
 (NEXT SUNDAY MORNING)

*All on either 78 or 45 rpm*



*This copy of*  
**CAPITOL NEWS**  
*comes to you through courtesy of*

Sec. 34,66, P. L. & R. 1

For:

★ Dealers with local 34.66 permit may use 1c pre-cancelled stamp (or meter) on mailings of 200 or more; otherwise use 2c uncanceled stamp (or meter). No envelope or sealing required. Mail at Post Office. When 2c stamp is used, place stamp so it covers up the words "Sec. 34:66 P. L. & R."

## Windy City Calls Maggie



SOAKING UP that brilliant California sunshine—she lives but a few miles from the blue Pacific and its many beaches—Margaret Whiting contemplates her July schedule. And it includes two weeks at the Chicago Theater in the Windy City starting July 14, one of her rare personal appearances away from the west coast. Mag's dulcet duet with Bob Hope ("Blind Date") is one of the hottest records of the summer season. And she's all through with radio now until fall.